

# NTU professor wins EIU award

By Teo Si Jia

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A NANYANG Technological University (NTU) academic took more than questions during his lecture on digital networks yesterday. He also took away a prize for excellence in teaching and received the highest global recognition for it.

Vijay Sethi, a professor at NTU's Business School, outdid three other finalists to clinch the Business Professor of the Year Award and a US\$100,000 prize from the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU).

He was the MBA Teacher of the Year in 2011 and won the Nanyang Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2012, and on Tuesday, for 2013 as well.

For the EIU award, he was up against Johanne Brunet from HEC Montreal; Darren Dahl from University of British Columbia; and Kevin Kaiser from Insead in a "live" lecture face-off in London, to an audience of business undergraduates and graduates from international universities in a classroom and over the Internet.

The judging panel consisted of Hult International Business School professor John Beck; Association of Executive Search Consultants president Peter Felix; vice-dean of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore, Astrid Tuminez; and *The Economist's* management editor Adrian Woolridge and business education editor William Ridgers.

The panel, along with the students, had whittled the list down to the final candidate from an initial pool of 222 professors.



**PROF SETHI**

Wants his students to be passionate about learning and knowing their field.

Mr Ridgers, chair of the judging panel, said: "Vijay was clearly a very worthy winner. He took some complicated ideas, and made them accessible and engaging to the audience."

For Prof Sethi, teaching is more than just breaking things down for students.

He said: "Ultimately, I want them to be passionate about learning and knowing whatever field they want to go into. If they feel we are passionate about our field, they will be about theirs."

"Teaching changes lives. For some, it gets them their first jobs; for others, a career switch; and for many, it changes the way they think," he added. "It is making this difference that makes me passionate about teaching. Through teaching, we improve people's minds – the greatest gift we have. We are all what we are today because someone taught us, educated us. Teaching is my way of giving back."